

# THE SACRED CROSS

(continued)



Finally, These are the true seven principal parts of the great holy possession whereby the Holy Spirit effects in us a daily sanctification and vivification in Christ, according to the first table of Moses. By this we obey it, albeit never as perfectly as Christ. But we constantly strive to attain the goal, under his redemption or remission of sin, until we too shall one day become perfectly holy and no longer stand in need of forgiveness. Everything is directed toward that goal. I would even call these seven parts the seven sacraments, but since that term has been misused by the papists and is used in a different sense in Scripture, I shall let them stand as the seven principal parts of Christian sanctification or the seven holy possessions of the church.<sup>[2]</sup>

Now we know for certain what, where, and who the holy Christian church is, that is, the holy Christian people of God; and we are quite certain that it cannot fail us. Everything else may fail and surely does, as we shall hear in part. Men should be selected from this people to form a council; that might be a council ruled by the Holy Spirit. Thus Lyra, too, writes that the church is not to be assessed by the high or spiritual vocations in it, but by the people who truly believe.

Now when the devil saw that God built such a holy church, he was not idle, and erected his chapel beside it, larger than God's temple. This is how he did it: he noticed that God utilized outward things, like baptism, word, sacrament, keys, etc., whereby he sanctified his church. And since the devil is always God's ape, trying to imitate all God's things and to improve on them, he also tried his luck with external things purported to make man holy—just as he tries with rain-makers, sorcerers, exorcists of devils, etc.

But the devil has a different purpose in mind. He wants the creature to derive new strength and power from his aping tomfoolery. Just as water becomes baptism by the power of God, a bath unto eternal life, washing away sin and bringing salvation, a power which is not inherent in water; just as bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ; just as sins are remitted by the laying on of hands in accordance with God's institution—so the devil too wants his mummery and aping tomfoolery to be strong and imbued with supernatural power.<sup>[3]</sup>

<sup>[1]</sup> Martin Luther, *Luther's Works, Vol. 41: Church and Ministry III*, ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1999), 164–165.

<sup>[2]</sup> Martin Luther, *Luther's Works, Vol. 41: Church and Ministry III*, ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1999), 165–166.

<sup>[3]</sup> Martin Luther, *Luther's Works, Vol. 41: Church and Ministry III*, ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1999), 167–168.

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"Jesus, I Will Ponder Now", text: Sigismund von Birken; tr. August Crull, music: Melchior Vulpius

"Oh Sacred Head, Now Wounded" text by Paul Gerhardt, based on Arnulf of Louvain; tr. Composite, music by German melody; adapt. Hans Leo Hassler; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach.

"Ah, Holy Jesus", text: Johann Heermann; tr. Robert Bridges, music: Johann Cruger

"Calvary", text and music: African American spiritual

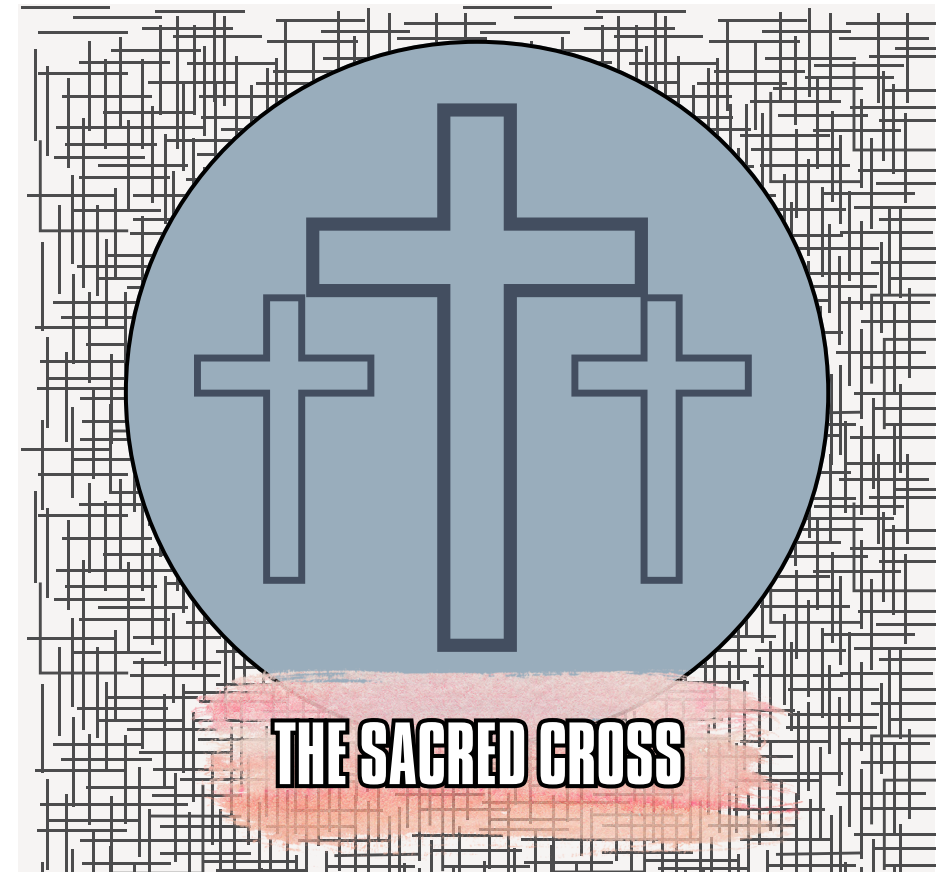
"Lamb of God", text and music: Twila Paris, © 1985 Straightway Music/Mountain Spring Music

"What Wondrous Love Is This", text: North American folk hymn, music: W. Walker, Southern Harmony; arr.

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# GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP SERVICE



*April 3, 2026*

# Faith Lutheran Church

*All gather in silence.*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**      *Lamb of God Most Holy (arr. Helgen)*      Faith Chancel Choir

**FIRST READING:** Isaiah 52:13-53:12

**HYMN:** *Were You There*      ELW 353

## TENEBRAE ACCORDING TO JOHN

**GOSPEL:** John 18:1-11  
**HYMN:** *Jesus, I Will Ponder Now*      ELW 345 vs. 1-2

**GOSPEL:** John 18:12-27  
**HYMN:** *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*      ELW 351, vs. 1-2

**GOSPEL:** John 18:28-40  
**HYMN:** *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*      ELW 351, vs. 3-4

**GOSPEL:** John 19:1-7  
**HYMN:** *Ah, Holy Jesus*      ELW 349, vs. 1-2

**GOSPEL:** John 19:8-16a  
**HYMN:** *Ah, Holy Jesus*      ELW 349, vs. 3-5

**GOSPEL:** John 19:16b-22  
**HYMN:** *Calvary*      ELW 354, vs. 1-2

**GOSPEL:** John 19:23-30  
**HYMN:** *Calvary*      ELW 354, vs. 3-4

**GOSPEL:** John 19:31-42  
**HYMN:** *Lamb of God*      ELW 336

**SERMON**      Pastor Tim Routh

## BIDDING PRAYER

Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy church throughout the world.  
...through Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## PROCESSION OF THE CROSS

Behold the life-giving cross, on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.  
**Oh, come, let us worship him.** (Litany repeated 3x)

**HYMN:** *What Wondrous Love Is This*      ELW 666

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.  
**By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

*We leave the sanctuary in silence.*

*\*\*Please place your offering in the offering plate at the back of the Sanctuary when you leave the service today.*



Seventh, the holy Christian people are externally recognized by the holy possession of the sacred cross. They must endure every misfortune and persecution, all kinds of trials and evil from the devil, the world, and the flesh (as the Lord's Prayer indicates) by inward sadness, timidity, fear, outward poverty, contempt, illness, and weakness, in order to become like their head, Christ. And the only reason they must suffer is that they steadfastly adhere to Christ and God's word, enduring this for the sake of Christ, Matthew 5 [:11], "Blessed are you when men persecute you on my account." They must be pious, quiet, obedient, and prepared to serve the government and everybody with life and goods, doing no one any harm. No people on earth have to endure such bitter hate; they must be accounted worse than Jews, heathen, and Turks. In summary, they must be called heretics, knaves, and devils, the most pernicious people on earth, to the point where those who hang, drown, murder, torture, banish, and plague them to death are rendering God a service. No one has compassion on them; they are given myrrh and gall to drink when they thirst. And all of this is done not because they are adulterers, murderers, thieves, or rogues, but because they want to have none but Christ, and no other God. Wherever you see or hear this, you may know that the holy Christian church is there, as Christ says in Matthew 5 [:11–12], "Blessed are you when men revile you and utter all kinds of evil against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven." This too is a holy possession whereby the Holy Spirit not only sanctifies his people, but also blesses them.<sup>[1]</sup> *(continues on back page)*